



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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June 20, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – DREAM HOME CARE, INCORPORATED - GROUP HOMES SITES 1, 2 AND 3**

We have completed a review of Dream Home Care Sites 1, 2 and 3 Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Dream Home Care, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Dream Home Care Sites 1, 2 and 3 are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 9-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Dream Home Care Site 1 was providing services for five DCFS children. Dream Home Care Sites 2 and 3 were each providing services for six DCFS children.

Dream Home Care Group Homes are located in the Fourth District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection,

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address a few deficient areas.

Dream Home Care Sites 1 and 3 need to clean the wall heater covers in the common living quarters and provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Dream Home Care Site 1 needs to paint the walls throughout the Group Home.

Dream Home Care Site 2 needs to paint the walls in the hallway and clean the ceiling and range hood over the stove in the kitchen.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg

### **Attachments**

- c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS  
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer  
Cora Manalang, Executive Director, Dream Home Care Group Homes  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Dream Home Care  
Site 1 Group Home  
3720 Gardenia Avenue  
Long Beach, California 90807  
Phone: (526) 989-1884  
License Number: 197803967  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Dream Home Care Site 1 Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the paint on the walls throughout the facility is peeling and the wall heater cover in the common living quarters is dirty.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendations**

**1. Dream Home Care management:**

- a. Paint the walls throughout the facility.**
- b. Clean the wall heater cover in the common living quarters.**

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

### **Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

##### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

##### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

##### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

##### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

##### **Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

##### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

##### **Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

##### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendations**

- 2. Dream Home Care management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

**Dream Home Care  
Site 2 Group Home  
3521 Allington Avenue  
Long Beach, California 90805  
Phone: (562) 595-9021  
License Number: 197804914  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

### **Method of assessment – Observation**

#### **Comments:**

Dream Home Care Site 2 Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the paint on the walls in the hallway is peeling, and the kitchen ceiling and range hood over the stove are dirty.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. Dream Home Care management:**

- a. Paint the walls in the hallway.**
- b. Clean the ceiling and range hood over the stove.**

## **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**



#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

##### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

##### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

##### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

##### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

##### **Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

##### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

##### **Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

##### **Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff

supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**Dream Home Care  
Site 3 Group Home  
3590 Gaviota Avenue  
Long Beach, California 90807  
Phone: (562) 989-1884  
License Number: 197800400  
Rate Classification Level: 11**

## **I. Facility and Environment**

### **Method of assessment – Observation**

#### **Comments:**

Dream Home Care Site 3 Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the wall heater cover in the common living quarters is dirty.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

### **Recommendations**

- 1. Dream Home Care management clean the wall heater cover in the common living quarters.**

## **II. Program Services**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication. Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

- 2. Dream Home Care management provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**

Dream Home Care, Inc.  
4150 Locust Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807  
Main office (562)595-9021  
Fax (562)426-4804

## **Corrective Action Plan**

3-29-07

**Site I:** Dream Home Care, Inc. I  
3720 Gardenia Avenue  
Long Beach CA 90807

### **Recommendations:**

- a) Paint interior walls
- b) Clean the wall heater cover in the common living quarters
- c) Group home to provide children with required minimum weekly allowance.

### **Corrective Action Plan:**

- a) Interior walls & ceilings were painted.
- b) Wall heater in the common living quarter was cleaned and painted.
- c) The weekly allowance of \$7.00 will not be reduced at all. Anything a client owes (from property destruction, losing bus passes, stolen items, etc.) comes from the bonus job or reward above the \$7.00 This evidenced by the weekly allowance log sheet signed by staff and client.

**Site 2:** Dream Home Care, Inc II  
3521 Allington Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807

### **Recommendations:**

- a) Paint the walls in the hallway.
- b) Clean the ceiling and the range hood over the stove.

### **Corrective Action Plan:**

- a) The kitchen range hood and ceiling over the stove were cleaned and painted
- b) The hallway walls were painted.

**Site 3:** Dream Home Care, Inc  
3590 Gaviota Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807

### **Recommendations:**


- a) Clean the wall heater cover in the common living quarters.
- b) Group Home must provide the children with the required minimum allowance.

Dream Home Care, Inc.  
4150 Locust Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90807  
Main office (562)595-9021  
Fax (562)426-4804

**Corrective Action Plan:**

- a) The wall heater cover in the common living quarters was cleaned & painted.
- b) The weekly allowance base of \$7.00 will not be reduced at all. Anything a client owes (from property destruction, losing bus passes, stolen items, etc.) will come from their bonus job or reward above the \$7.00. This is evidenced by the allowance log sheet signed by staff and client.

To ensure that above deficiencies will not occur again in the future, the shift lead staff for each site is responsible that the CAP is being done. The administration for each site is the Quality Control Person to oversee that the CAP is implemented. This is evidenced by the Daily Check List which is completed and signed by the lead staff.

  
Cora Manalang  
CEO/Administrator